

REMARKS

As a preliminary remark, this application is now under ownership of CQRCert LLC following a transfer from CertCo, LLC. The undersigned attorney represents CQRCert LLC.

All previously examined claims have been cancelled and new claims added by this amendment. The Applicants make the following remarks to assist the examiner in examining the new claims.

This application claims priority through a chain of applications, including 869,253, which issued as U.S. Patent 5,825,880. The '880 patent claimed digital signing *methods* and *systems* for affixing digital signatures. The present claims are directed to digital *signatures* and partial digital *signatures*, as distinct from systems or methods for forming or affixing digital signatures. For example, the following is a comparison of claim 1 of the '880 patent, and claim 21 of this pending application. Note especially the difference in preambles.

USP 5,825,880	PENDING APPLICATION
1. A <i>digital signing method</i> comprising steps of:	21. A <i>digital signature</i> formed by the steps of:
generating shares of a private signature key;	generating shares of a private signature key;
storing shares in separate electronic signing devices;	storing shares in separate electronic signing devices;
certifying multiple authorizing agents for signing devices; and	certifying multiple authorizing agents for signing devices; and
for each of a plurality of signing devices, affixing a partial signature to an electronic message in response to authorization from a minimum number of authorizing agents;	for each of a plurality of signing devices, affixing a partial signature to an electronic message in response to authorization from a minimum number of authorizing agents;
wherein a plurality of partial signatures constitutes a digital signature.	wherein a plurality of partial signatures constitutes a digital signature.

Such form of claiming potentially provides enforcement benefits when one or more steps of a method might be performed outside the territory of the United States, but where the digital signature resulting from the method is imported into the United States, such as by communication of a document bearing a digital signature.

A terminal disclaimer will be provided upon indication of otherwise allowable subject matter.

To the extent any claim is considered a "product by process" claim, the applicant endorses an interpretation where the process terms serve to define the claimed digital signatures and partial digital signatures, with an understanding that the claims are nevertheless directed to the resultant digital signature and partial digital signatures (as distinct from the process steps themselves).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart T. F. Huang", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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